

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. NUM-0157

In re patent application of  
Kazuto KOBAYASHI et al.

Serial No. to be assigned

Group Art Unit: unassigned

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Examiner: unassigned

Title: EXPANSION VALVE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56.

- ☒ A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Concise Explanation of Relevancy of the Document

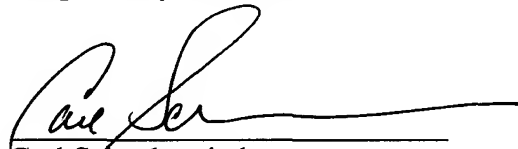
(Fill out if no English translation, partial translation or English abstract is available)

- ☒ Any document having neither English translation nor English abstract relates to the subject matter of the above-identified application. English translation of the document is not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Atty. Docket No. NUM-0157

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date or within three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), OR is being filed concurrent with filing of the Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) or the Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No fee is required (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)).

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Schaukowitch

Registration No.: 29,211

Date: June 23, 2003

Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC  
1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 501  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 955-3750  
Fax: (202) 955-3751  
Customer No. 23353

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Kazuto Kobayashi
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	NUM-0157

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
	BA	JP-08-152232-A1		06-11-1996	ZEXEL		
	BB	JP-11-351440-A1		12-24-1999	EATON		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--